

21st CCLC Round 16 Grant Proposal Draft

Early Edge Abstract

The motto of the Blackfoot School District is “Educating our Children Today for a Greater Tomorrow.” We believe this can happen through the advancement of an enhanced learning environment, collaboration and communication skills, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills through a program called “Early Edge”.

Blackfoot School District is focused on offering an “Early Edge” for children/students within our community. Early Edge would provide two sessions of preschool education and ensure a quality education for Blackfoot's youngest learners. It would also focus on providing our at-risk high school students college credit and training through Career Technical Education as well as a consistent credit recovery/accrual program. The intent of Early Edge is to serve the whole child. Our focus will include academic, physical, cognitive, language, and social-emotional learning with a hands on approach.

Students, who will be served through this grant, will range from ages four to eighteen. Top priority will be given to "at risk" students whether it be for social, emotional, academic, or behavioral issues. Enrichment activities will be provided to parents and family members of program participants as outlined.

Scientifically based curriculum and strategies will provide evidence that programming will help participants meet local and state academic standards and graduation requirements. This data will be stored in Milepost and Infinite Campus.

Early Edge will provide 40 preschool students academic and enrichment school readiness experience. Two sessions of preschool will be offered. Session one will be Monday and Wednesday from 8:00 – 11:30, and Session two will be Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 – 11:30. Each session will have an enrollment limit of 20 students with a waiting list provided. 15 at-risk secondary students will have the ability to enroll and take the class/training for 3 credits through ISU at no cost to them. They will also have the ability to test at the end of the tri-semester to receive an “Early Childhood Certificate.” In addition they will have after school credit recovery/accrual Monday through Thursday from 3:00 – 4:30 with enrichment activities to follow from 4:30 – 6:00 at Independence High School.

Highly qualified staff, CTE early childhood student assistants under the direction of a CTE early childhood instructor will be in the classroom. Student instructors are eligible for three credits of Early Childhood Education from the College of Technology at Idaho State University. The Early Edge preschool program will be located in a designated space at Blackfoot High School. The district will provide breakfast and a healthy snack for each of our participants for free as evidenced by the Letter of Support from our Child Nutrition Director. Early Edge preschool will begin in October and close the first week of May. Early Edge credit accrual/recovery will begin on September 19, 2022. The program will operate at least 100 days per school year and a minimum of 300 contact hours.

Early Edge preschool students would begin their day with breakfast for free and at 8:20 move to their classroom for integrated enrichment and hands-on learning opportunities. The Early Edge staff will provide academic enrichment activities by utilizing an approved hands on interactive curriculum from Idaho State University. Imagine Learning, Imagine Math, and IStation will supplement the core curriculum. Additional services, programs, and activities will include: art, music, PE, and STEM opportunities. Before going home the students will also be provided a free snack. A parent volunteer component will encourage and allow parents to provide volunteer hours during programming and on scheduled parent event nights.

Another Principle of Effectiveness is high quality academic and pro-social enrichment opportunities. Early Edge will seek evaluation through teacher and parent surveys, and growth reports through online curriculum. A periodic evaluation to assess progress will meet another principle of effectiveness. A team will be established to help evaluate programming. The team will consist of the Principal, Early Edge Director, Federal Programs Director, school day staff, and Early Edge Staff.